(b) if so, whether Government propose to provide cable in sufficient quantity alongwith other equipments to provide telephone connections to expected subscribers and to clear the waiting list of subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. There is no waiting list in MTNL. As regards BSNL, waiting list of telephone subscribers has decreased from 18,06,577 as on 31.3.2003 to 17,09,127 as on 31.10.2004

(b) In MTNL, 8289 cases of new telephone connections were pending as on 30.11.2004 which are being provided progressively on cables and Wireless in Local Loop (WLL). BSNL has also proposed to provide sufficient cable and WLL equipment for clearing the waiting list.

Vacant posts in MTNL

†2260. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts under various categories in the Delhi and Mumbai Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited lying vacant as on the November 30, 2004;

(b) the details of steps Government/Department have taken so far to fill in the vacant posts; and

(c) by when Government propose to fill in all the vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Telephone on demand in Kerala

2261. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the waiting list of the consumers for the landline connections in Kerala, District-wise, as on the end of September 2004, and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.